Status of PMSSY

1879. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY);

(b) by when this scheme is likely to be concluded;

(c) what is the present status of implementation of PMSSY;

(d) whether it is a fact that implementation of the scheme has been delayed due to lack of funds; and

(e) if so, what steps are being taken to provide sufficient funds for the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) Under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), it has been decided to set up six AIIMS-like institutions in under-served states and also a upgrade 13 existing Govt. Medical College institutions in ten States. The scheme is expected to be implemented in about three years. For the six AIIMS-like institutions, various start-up activities have been initiated such as construction of boundary wall, the process of pre-construction survey at the sites, election of Project Consultant for providing comprehensive consultancy services and selection of architectural concept/design. For the upgradation projects, proposals have been invited from State Govt./Institutions. The assessment reports and gap analysis for each of the identified is also being carried out.

(d) and (e) There has been no delay in implementation of the scheme due to lack of funds. The PMSSY scheme has also been approved by the competent authority in March, 06. the availability of resources has also been tied up before obtaining the approval of scheme.

Infant Mortality Rate among BPL families

1880. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Wilt the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the present infant mortality rate in India and the present lowest IMR in the world with the name of that country;

(b) whether any survey has been made to assess IMR among BPL families in our country;

(c) if so, the result thereof; and

(d) the recorded improvement made in the case of health care during the last three years, giving rise to subsequent fall in IMR?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) As per the latest available data released from the office of the Registrar General of India, 2006 is the Sample Registration system (2004), the Infant Mortality Rate in the country is 58 per thousand live births. As per the State of the World's Children 2006, published by UNICEF, the lowest IMR in the world is in Iceland, which has an Infant mortality rate of 2 per thousand live births.

(b) and (c)As per the National Family Health Survey, 1998-99, children of women belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have higher rates of infant and childhood mortality than children of women belonging to other categories of women. For children in households with a high standard of living the infant mortality rate is 43 deaths per thousand live births and the under five mortality rate is 52 deaths per 1000 live births; the corresponding rates for children in households with a low standard of living are more than twice as high at 89 and 130, respectively.

(d) As per the latest available data from the Sample Registration System, released by the office of the Registrar General of India, the IMR in 2001 was 66 per thousand live births which has declined to 58 per thousand live births in 2004. Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme (RCH) being implemented in all States of the country various interventions for reduction of infant mortality rate are being implemented. These include immunization against vaccine preventable diseases, control of death during diarrhea, control of deaths due to acute respiratory infections; prophylaxis against vitamin A deficiency and iron decifiency anemia, essential new born care and promotion of exclusive breast feeding and appropriate complementary feeding practices! Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI) has been recognized by the Government of India as a technically superior strategy and shall be implemented all *over* the country in a phased manner.

British ban on recruitment of nurses

1881. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the British Government has announced a clampdown on the recruitment of overseas nurses;